

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital broadcast receiving device that receives a broadcast wave including interactive data to achieve pseudo-interactive communications, the interactive data being repeatedly broadcast, the digital broadcast receiving device comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving the broadcast wave which includes first information and second information, the second information having conditions for using the broadcast wave, and the first information being recorded on a recording medium;

a judging unit for judging a state that is established during the reception of the broadcast wave based on the first information, the state being one of a preview state, a prohibited state, and a permitted state the judging unit including an obtaining subunit for obtaining the first information from the recording medium, wherein the first information shows conditions for using the received broadcast wave under a subscription contract; a contract judging subunit for judging whether the first information and the second information are the same, determining that a subscription contract is made, on judging that the first and second information are the same, and determining that the subscription contract is not made, on judging that the first and second information are not the same; a preview state judging subunit for (a) judging whether a predetermined period has passed since a start of reception of the broadcast wave, if the contract judging subunit determines that the subscription contract is made, (b) determining that the preview state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has not passed, and (c) determining that the prohibited state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has already passed,

wherein in the preview state, the received broadcast wave may be permitted to be used regardless of the subscription contract being made, and

wherein in the prohibited state, the broadcast wave is prohibited from being used because the subscription contract is not made; and

a restricting unit for restricting use of the interactive data when the preview state is judged as established, regardless of a subscription contract being made, or the prohibited state being judged as established.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the interactive data contains a plurality of sets of presentation data and a plurality of pieces of link information,

each set of the presentation data is associated with a piece of the link information, and

each piece of the link information indicates a link to another set of the presentation data that is different from the set of the presentation data associated with the piece of the link information,

wherein one of the plurality of sets of presentation data is currently displayed,

wherein the restricting unit further includes

a user input receiving subunit for receiving a user operation relating to the displayed set of presentation data;

a link subunit for (a) specifying, based on the received user operation, a set of presentation data that is a link destination of a link associated by the link information with the displayed set of presentation data if either the preview state or the prohibited state is judged as being established, (b) judging whether the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set

of presentation data are included in a same group, (c) obtaining the specified set of presentation data on judging that the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set of presentation data are included in the same group, and (d) restricting use of interactive data relating to the received user operation on judging that the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set of presentation data are not included in the same group; and

a presenting subunit for presenting the obtained set of presentation data.

4. (Previously Presented) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim 3,

wherein the broadcast wave includes a plurality of components, and one component out of the plurality of components includes sets of presentation data, and another component out of the plurality of components includes other sets of presentation data that are different from the sets of presentation data included in the one component, and

wherein the link unit judges that the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set of presentation data are included in the same group if the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set of presentation data are included in a same component.

5. (Previously Presented) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim 3,

wherein the broadcast wave includes a plurality of components, and at least two components out of the plurality of components each include a plurality of sets of reception data, each set of reception data containing a plurality of sets of presentation data, and

wherein the link unit judges that the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set of presentation data are included in the same group if the specified set of presentation data and the displayed set of presentation data are included in a same set of reception data.

6. (Previously Presented) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim 3,
wherein the broadcast wave includes a plurality of components, and one
component out of the plurality of components includes sets of reception data, and another
component out of the plurality of components includes other sets of reception data that are
different from the sets of reception data included in the one component, and each set of reception
data containing a plurality of sets of presentation data,

wherein the link unit judges that the specified set of presentation data and the
displayed set of presentation data are included in the same group if the specified set of
presentation data is same as the displayed set of presentation data.

7. (Currently Amended) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim [[2]] 1,
wherein the interactive data contains (a) a plurality of sets of presentation data, (b)
a plurality of pieces of link information, and (c) a script,
each set of the presentation data is associated with a piece of the link information,
each piece of the link information indicates a link to another set of presentation
data that is different from the set of presentation data associated with the piece of link
information, and

the script contains a procedure to restrict use of the interactive data,
wherein the restricting unit restricts the use of the interactive data by analyzing
and executing the script.

8. (Previously Presented) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim 7,
wherein the script also contains a first description that describes a prohibition of a
link operation designated by a user, the prohibition being made if either the preview state or the

prohibited state is judged as being established, and a second description that describes a permission to perform the designated link operation if the permitted state is judged as being established,

wherein one of the plurality of sets of presentation data is currently displayed,
wherein the restricting unit further includes
a user operation receiving subunit for receiving a user operation that designates the link operation;

a script executing subunit for (a) analyzing the script, (b) restricting the designated link operation on recognizing the first description in the script if either the preview state or the prohibited state is judged as being established, and (c) obtaining a set of presentation data which is a link destination of the designated link operation on recognizing the second description if the permitted state is judged as being established; and

a presenting subunit for presenting the obtained set of presentation data.

9. (Previously Presented) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim 8,
wherein the second description also describes a presentation of a message relating to the prohibition of the link operation and

wherein on recognizing the message in the script, the script executing unit presents the message.

10. (Currently Amended) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim [[2]] 1,
wherein the interactive data contains (a) a plurality of sets of presentation data, (b) a plurality of pieces of link information, and (c) a viewing enabled signal,
each set of the presentation data is associated with a piece of the link information,

each piece of the link information indicates a link to another set of the presentation data that is different from the set of the presentation data associated with the piece of the link information, and

the viewing enabled signal indicates either a viewing permission or a preview permission,

wherein one of the plurality of sets of presentation data is currently displayed,

wherein the restricting unit further includes

a user operation receiving subunit for receiving a user operation that designates a link operation;

a link subunit for obtaining a set of presentation data which is a link destination of the designated link operation if either a first condition or a second condition is fulfilled, and for restricting use of interactive data relating to the received user operation if neither the first condition nor the second condition is fulfilled,

wherein in the first condition, the viewing enabled signal indicates the preview permission, and the preview state is judged as being established, and

wherein in the second condition, the viewing enabled signal indicates the viewing permission, and the permitted state is judged as being established; and

a presenting subunit for presenting the obtained set of presentation data.

11. (Currently Amended) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim [[2]] 1,

wherein the interactive data contains a plurality of sets of presentation data and a plurality of pieces of link information,

each set of the presentation data is associated with a piece of the link information,
and

each piece of the link information indicates a link to another set of the presentation data that is different from the set of the presentation data associated with the piece of the link information,

wherein one of the plurality of sets of presentation data is currently displayed,
wherein the restricting unit further includes
a user operation receiving subunit for receiving a user operation;
a counting subunit for counting a number of user operations that have been received;

a link subunit for restricting use of interactive data relating to the received user operation when the counted number reaches a predetermined number and either the preview state or the prohibited state is judged as being established.

12. (Currently Amended) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim [[2]] 1,
wherein the interactive data contains a plurality of sets of presentation data and a plurality of pieces of link information,

each set of the presentation data is associated with a piece of the link information,
and

each piece of the link information indicates a link to another set of the presentation data that is different from the set of the presentation data associated with the piece of the link information,

wherein one of the plurality of sets of presentation data is currently displayed,

wherein the restricting unit further includes
a user operation receiving subunit for receiving a user operation that designates a
link operation;
a link subunit for restricting use of interactive data relating to the received user
operation if either the preview state or the prohibited state is judged as being established, and for
obtaining a set of presentation data which is a link destination of the designated link operation if
the permitted state is judged as being established; and
a presenting subunit for presenting the obtained set of presentation data.

13. (Previously Presented) The digital broadcast receiving device of Claim 12,
wherein the link subunit also places a restriction on obtainment of the set of
presentation data that is the link destination if either the preview state or the prohibited state is
judged as being established.

14. (Currently Amended) A digital broadcast system, comprising:
a digital broadcast sending device that broadcasts a wave containing interactive
data, the interactive data being repeatedly broadcast; and
a digital broadcast receiving device that receives the broadcast wave to achieve
pseudo-interactive communications, the interactive data being repeatedly received,
wherein the digital broadcast receiving device includes including:
a receiving unit for receiving the broadcast wave, which includes first information
and second information, the second information having conditions for using the broadcast wave,
and the first information being recorded on a recording medium;

a judging unit for judging a state that is established during the reception of the broadcast wave based on first information, the state being one of a preview state, a prohibited state, and a permitted state, the judging unit including an obtaining subunit for obtaining the first information from the recording medium, wherein the first information shows conditions for using the received broadcast wave under a subscription contract[[,]] ; a contract judging subunit for judging whether the first information and the second information are the same, determining that a subscription contract is made, on judging that the first and second information are the same, and determining that the subscription contract is not made on judging that the first and second information are not the same; a preview state judging subunit for (a) judging whether a predetermined period has passed since a start of reception of the broadcast wave, if the contracting judging subunit determines that a subscription contract is made, (b) determining that a preview state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has not passed, and (c) determining that a prohibited state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has already passed,

wherein in the preview state, the received broadcast wave may be permitted to be used regardless of the subscription contract being made, and

wherein in the prohibited state, the broadcast wave is prohibited from being used because the subscription contract is not made; and

a restricting unit for restricting use of the interactive data when the preview state is judged as being established, regardless of a subscription contract being made, or the prohibited state being judged as established.

15. (Currently Amended) A receiving method used by a digital broadcast receiving device, which receives a broadcast wave including interactive data to achieve pseudo-interactive communications, the interactive data being repeatedly broadcast, the receiving method including comprising the steps of:

receiving the broadcast wave; [[and]] which includes first information and second information, the second information having conditions for using the broadcast wave, and the first information being recorded on a recording medium;

judging a state that is established during [[the]] reception of the broadcast wave, based on first information, the state being one of a preview state, a prohibited state, and a permitted state[[],];

obtaining the first information from the recording medium, wherein the first information shows conditions for using the received broadcast wave under a subscription contract[[],];

determining that a subscription contract is made, on judging that the first and second information are the same;

determining that a subscription contract is not made, on judging that the first and second information are not the same;

judging whether a predetermined period has passed since start of reception of the broadcast wave, if it has been determined that the subscription contract is made;

determining that a preview state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has not passed;

determining that a prohibited state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has already passed;

wherein in the preview state, the received broadcast wave may be permitted to be used regardless of the subscription contract being made, and wherein in the prohibited state, the broadcast wave is prohibited from being used because the subscription contract is not made; and

restricting use of the interactive data when the preview state is judged as being established, regardless of a subscription contract being made, or the prohibited state being judged as established.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer machine readable recording medium, that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine in storing a program used by a digital broadcast receiving device which receives a broadcast wave including interactive data to achieve pseudo-interactive communications, the interactive data being repeatedly broadcasted, the program including cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

a receiving step of receiving the broadcast wave[[]] which includes first information and second information, the second information having conditions for using the broadcast wave, and the first information being recorded on a recording medium;

a judging step of judging a state that is established during the reception of the broadcast wave based on first information, the state being one of a preview state, a prohibited state, and a permitted state[[],]:

obtaining the first information from the recording medium, wherein the first information shows conditions for using the received broadcast wave under a subscription contract[[],]:

determining that a subscription contract is made, on judging that the first and second information are the same;

determining that a subscription contract is not made, on judging that the first and second information are not the same;

judging whether a predetermined period has passed since start of reception of the broadcast wave, if it has been determined that the subscription contract is made;

determining that a preview state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has not passed;

determining that the prohibited state is established during reception, on judging that the predetermined period has already passed,

wherein in the preview state, the received broadcast wave is permitted to be used regardless of the subscription contract being made, and wherein in the prohibited state, the broadcast wave is prohibited from being used because the subscription contract is not made; and

~~a restricting step of~~ restricting use of the interactive data when the preview state is judged as being established, regardless of a subscription contract being made, or the prohibited state being judged as established.